

Baking Bread Somewhere Else in Liverpool



The role of food in cultural practices and religious beliefs is complex but food and hospitality are a vital part of many faiths. Hospitality is a way forward in weaving good relations and it affirms a common humanity to all people.

This year, the Touchstone Interfaith Women's Group had their annual day out at "Somewhere Else" - the "Bread Church" in Liverpool. 40 women and children enjoyed taking part in making bread and for most of them it was a first

time experience. It was also the first time the hosting team had organised bread baking sessions for an interfaith group.

Some Asian women soon found parallels in the recipe for bread with the recipe for making naan. The children were most excited about this activity and waited impatiently for their bread to be baked.

Rev Ian very wisely managed to take care of



some energetic children while their mothers were busy baking and bonding as a group.

The Women's Group truly appreciated the hospitality and warm welcome of the members of the Bread making project, who had generously organised soup and bread for lunch, also a first time encounter for many. Some members of the hosting team expressed their interest in a reciprocal visit to Touchstone to learn how to make chapattis.



Some of the comments about the day:

Asba: "Thanks for inviting us to Liverpool. I enjoyed myself and the best part of the day was when we went to the bread factory (church)".

Aryan and Raheem: "The trip was fantastic. We have never been to Liverpool, so thank you very much."

Naseem Akhtar: "It was a wonderful experience and the hospitality was excellent. Thank you Touchstone! If only words could describe the excellent time I had."





Maria: “Thanks for offering this magnificent trip. Maybe it should be more often - the trips organised by Touchstone are always fabulous. I will remember it always - can't wait to see what's next...”

Mehek & Uzma: “Thank you very much for this brilliant trip. It was fantastic. I hope we can go on more trips. I really enjoyed today and thank you for the hospitality.”

Mrs Ashraf & family expressed their thanks for organising this wonderful trip.

Awais Mughal: “We all are grateful to the whole team of Bread Church for their generous hospitality and warm welcome. We wish them every blessing in their good work.”



magnet
resources

Magnet Resources is a new charity set up to publish Magnet magazine and associated Christian resources. You can find a wealth of interesting and stimulating material for your own interest and for use in leading worship or groups on the website: www.ourmagnet.co.uk

The current issue of Magnet magazine covers the issue of Survival. The essence has been to start with the question of how to cope when all that is known to you and on which your life depends is lost or damaged. Immediately we think of earthquakes (p4) and refugees (see p30). But there are more silent situations from which the survival route is less obvious: sexual abuse (p8), ritual abuse (p22), stories of rejection and homelessness (p14). Many of these struggles are bleak and would remain so were it not for the hope and support of counsellors, doctors, therapists, ministers and friends. We've discovered, as we hope you will too, God's loving Spirit at work in a sometimes desperate darkness, gathering tormented dreams and lost memories, the fragile strands of shattered lives and weaving them into a purpose. Through a moment of relief, an insight, a change, a flash of humour, something unexpectedly new is created. Our page of humour is included as part of the story of survivors (p38).



This issue would not have been possible without the inspiring input from Barbara Glasson. As a Methodist minister in the Liverpool Methodist District she was the inspiration for 'the Bread Church' Somewhere Else and is now Team Leader at Touchstone in Bradford – a Methodist city centre project in a diverse and multicultural place. She has travelled the world and has an intelligent understanding of survival issues. Her book 'A Spirituality of Survival' (reviewed on p29) reflects political as well as individual stories, is deeply biblical and filled with interesting insights into scripture. She is passionate about justice and the rights of the excluded to be included. Much of her ministry has been outside a formal church setting and she is ideally placed to write on the survival of the church in the reality of today's society (p26).

The meditation pages, worship, Bible study (p10) and prayer focus (p24) are linked in so many ways to reflect both the anguish and the new hope which becomes the harvest of survival.